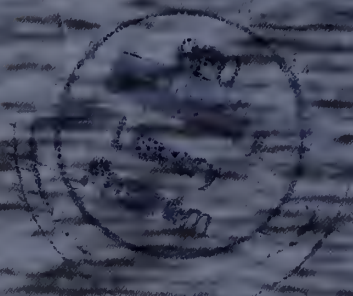


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Avoid *the* Disaster




After

the Disaster.



HEALING THE LAND WITH
EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION



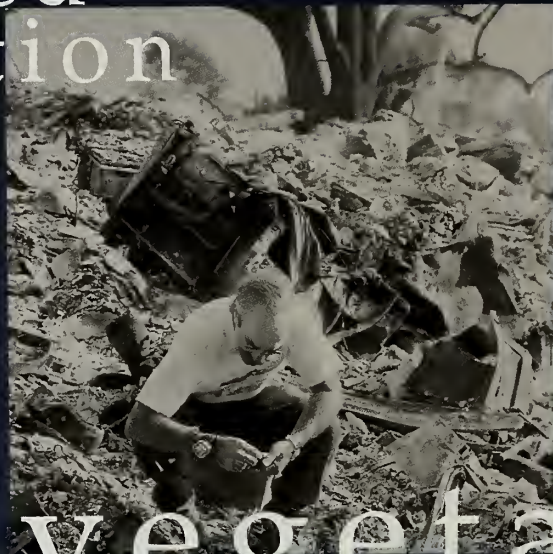
When a natural
disaster strikes
your community –

whether it's fire, flood, hurricane,
tornado or earthquake – the after
effects of the emergency often times
can be just as threatening as the
emergency itself. Natural disasters
can strip the land, leaving it
susceptible to erosion by wind and
water, to floods and to other natural
disasters. When the land is
vulnerable, lives and property are
also threatened. Before a threatening
situation arises in your community,
learn how watersheds can be
protected, in the aftermath of a
natural disaster, with assistance from
the Emergency Watershed Protection
program.

**"If I ever have to go through
another storm, I sure would
like to have SCS standing there
with me when it's all done and
over with because they were
extremely effective in coordinating
contracts, getting contracts let,
and that was a big weight off
of me as a local manager...one
less thing I had to worry about."**

**Scott Thorp
Regional O & M Director
South Florida Water Management District
Homestead Field Station
Homestead, Florida**

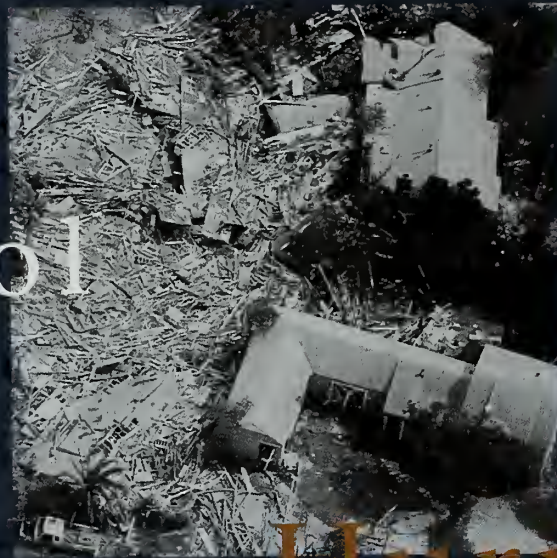
Watershed
Protection



Fire

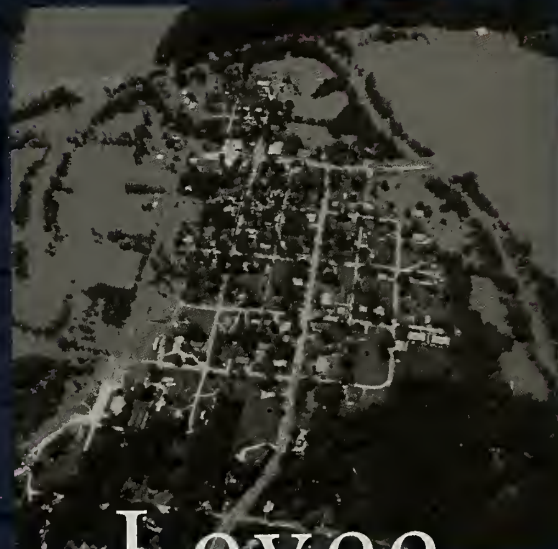
Revegetation

Erosion
Control



Hurricane

Flood



Flood
Protection

Levee
Restoration

EWP Provides the Answers

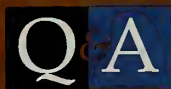


What is a watershed

emergency?

A watershed emergency exists when a natural occurrence causes a sudden watershed impairment, creating an imminent threat to life or property. There are two types of threatening situations – exigency and nonexigency.

Exigency involves a clear threat to life and property and requires immediate action. In a nonexigency situation, the damage to life or property is high enough to constitute a continued hazard, but not an immediate threat to life or property.



Who takes leadership to

lend assistance in a watershed emergency situation?

Congress has authorized the USDA Soil Conservation Service to respond to watershed disasters by directing technical assistance to landowners and administering funds through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program.



What does the Emergency

Watershed Protection program do?

EWP provides work, installations or repairs necessary to protect lives, land and property from possible floods, drought and erosion.



What type of protection

is available?

EWP work is not limited to prescribed measures. Each case will be investigated on its own merit. Examples of SCS work include: removing debris from stream channels and bridge abutments, reshaping and protecting eroding streambanks, repairing levees and structures and reseeding damaged land areas.



Who applies for the assistance?

Although the EWP program is administered by the Soil Conservation Service, individuals in need of emergency assistance can contact a local, city, county, state or watershed authority for

sponsorship. Sponsors apply to the local SCS office in writing by stating the nature, location and scope of the problem. The request should also suggest the extent and type of work that is needed and include a statement about the sponsor's willingness to assume operation and maintenance responsibilities and the sponsor's intent to provide a portion of installation costs.

Q&A Why is a sponsor needed?

Sponsors provide the legal authority to obtain land and water rights to do repair work and secure necessary permits. Sponsors also furnish local cost sharing, install the work and provide for maintenance of completed emergency measures.

Q&A Who can sponsor an EWP project?

Local officials of city, county and state government; Indian tribes; Soil Conservation Districts; federal agencies; watershed authorities and others may sponsor EWP projects.

Q&A What must the sponsor do?

Sponsors must certify that they have the legal authority to apply for federal assistance; certify that they have passed a motion or adopted a similar resolution to apply for the assistance; provide

assurance that funds are not available from other sources; and appoint a representative who will work to acquire land rights, provide additional information and obtain funds for nonexigency measures that will involve cost-sharing.

Q&A Who is eligible for the assistance?

Public or private landowners, land managers and land users are eligible for assistance if their watershed area has been impaired by a natural disaster. To be eligible, applicants must lack the funds or resources necessary to provide relief.

Q&A What types of situations are eligible for EWP assistance?

To be eligible for assistance, a measure must retard runoff to prevent soil erosion or flooding; reduce threats to life or property caused by a watershed emergency; and benefit more than one individual, except in an exigency situation where single beneficiaries are permitted.

Q&A Are there any restrictions?

- Applicants must apply through a project sponsor.
- Emergency work is limited to the least costly means of removing the threat.
- EWP funds cannot be used to solve problems that existed before the disaster; they cannot be used to raise the level of protection that existed prior to the emergency; and they cannot be used to work on measures installed by another federal agency.
- EWP work must be economically and environmentally defensible and sound from an engineering standpoint. It cannot adversely affect downstream water rights.
- EWP funds cannot be used for operation and maintenance work or to repair private or public transportation facilities or utilities.

Q&A Who absorbs the cost?

The SCS will pay 75 percent of the construction costs for EWP measures. Local sources must then provide cash or in-kind services for the remaining 25 percent. Local sponsors are also responsible for any costs associated with land rights acquisition.

10 EASY STEPS TO INITIATE EWP ASSISTANCE WHEN YOU ARE THE SPONSOR

1. Contact your local SCS office.
2. Apply for EWP assistance as a local sponsor.
3. Allow SCS to investigate the site.
4. Allow SCS to determine if the situation qualifies for EWP assistance.
5. Allow SCS to request funding for the EWP project.
6. Expect notification of funding eligibility.
7. Allow SCS to coordinate and plan the EWP project.
8. Help secure land right permits.
9. Help implement the EWP work.
10. Provide for maintenance of completed emergency measures.

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"If another city was in the same kind of situation we are, I would highly recommend contacting the Soil Conservation Service. They're a real nice bunch of folks."

Bruce Pyeatt
City Council Member
Fairfax, Missouri



USDA, Soil Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

For more information, contact your local Soil Conservation Service office.